

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO NRC WASHDC

INFO ERDA GERMANTOWN

SECSTATE WASHDC 9488

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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NRC PASS H. BROWN, OI&SP. ERDA FOR G. HELFRIICH, DIP.
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR LORE.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND BELGIUM

1. ERDA BRUSSELS CONTACTED MISS HERPELS OF THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THIS MORNING AND LEARNED THAT THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT BETWEEN NRC AND THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH THIS AFTERNOON. THE DISCUSSIONS WILL CENTER AROUND NRC'S PROPOSED CLARIFICATIONS TO THE BELGIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL. WE WILL BE BRIEFED TOMORROW MORNING ON THE OUTCOME OF THESE DISCUSSIONS AND WILL INFORM YOU OF THE RESULTS PROMPTLY.

2. AT THIS POINT, MISS HERPELS CAN FORESEE THREE DIFFICULTIES WHICH WILL PROBABLY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF TIME NECESSARY TO REACH A FORMAL AGREEMENT. THE FIRST CENTERS AROUND NRC'S ASSUMPTION THAT THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH. SINCE BELGIUM HAS TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (FRENCH AND FLEMISH) THE AGREEMENT MUST BE PREPARED IN THREE LANGUAGES. THE SECOND POINT IS WITH REGARD TO THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN BRUSSELS. WE HAVE INFORMAL INDICATIONS IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE IF IT

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IS SIGNED IN BRUSSELS THE AGREEMENT WOULD INVOLVE OFFICIALS

AT THE MINISTER LEVEL. THIS IN TURN WOULD MEAN THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE REVIEWED AT A HIGHER STAFF LEVEL IN TWO SEPARATE MINISTRIES. HOWEVER, IF IT IS SIGNED IN WASHINGTON, THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR CAN SIGN FOR THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING A LOWER LEVEL MINISTERIAL STAFF REVIEW. ON A THIRD POINT, MISS HERPELS STILL DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 103 OF THE EURATOM TREATY IN A PERIOD OF LESS THAN 30 DAYS. THE REASON FOR THIS IS NOT THE POTENTIAL SLOWNESS WITH WHICH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION MAY ACT BUT RATHER THE SLOWNESS OF THE BELGIAN REVIEW NECESSITATED BY THE COMMISSION HAVING TO SIMULTANEOUSLY DEAL WITH SEVERAL BELGIAN MINISTRIES. (THE INTERLACING OF MINISTERIAL REVIEWS RESULTS FROM THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT NOT HAVING A SINGLE AGENCY OR MINISTER TO DEAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH ATOMIC ANERGY.) RENNER

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